

Introduction

Federal responsibility for leadership in preservation of the nation's historic heritage belongs to the Secretary of the Interior. This responsibility has been delegated to the National Park Service, which includes many historic units and resources within its own park system. The NPS is also charged with educating the public about the importance of understanding the nation's history and preserving the historic places which embody that heritage, regardless of ownership.

de Teel Patterson Tiller, Chief of Heritage Preservation Services in the NPS, begins this issue by reminding us that responsibility for the preservation of National Historic Landmarks belongs to all of us. The National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) has long been a voice for the national park system and its programs. Eileen Woodford, Director of the Northeast Region of the NPCA, urges owners to work together to resolve common problems and advocate for NHLs.

The NPS not only nominates new NHLs in partnership with others, but also provides guidance on their preservation. Expansion of participation in the nomination process is discussed by Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmark Survey.

The NPS monitors the condition of NHLs and reports to Congress on damage and threats to these properties. NPS also makes recommendations for ways to mitigate the damage or threats without destroying the essential characteristics of the Landmark, its "integrity." Monitoring and assistance to NHLs are carried out by NPS staff in nine field offices, coordinated by NPS' National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships in Washington. The National Historic Landmarks Assistance Initiative is discussed by Susan Escherich, Coordinator of the Assistance Initiative.

The NPS works with State Historic Preservation Offices to carry out preservation programs throughout the country. Cherilyn Widell, California State Historic Preservation Officer, writes about the importance of the NHL program in helping carry out the preservation of all historic resources in the states.

National parks are being encouraged to reach out to their communities and forge partner-

ships for stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Some parks have been doing this for a long time in connection with the NHL program. Jon E. Taylor, historian with the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri, describes working to promote preservation with the residents and businessmen of the Harry S Truman Historic District National Historic Landmark. This NHL extends far beyond the four buildings owned by the NPS. William Wilcox, historian in Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa, writes about his experiences visiting the 23 National Historic Landmark owners in Iowa over the past 10 years.

Many aspects of technical assistance provided by the NPS to private, local, state, tribal and federal stewards of NHLs are discussed in this issue. Lysa Wegman-French, historian in the NPS Rocky Mountain Support Office, describes the ways various NHLs were able to benefit from the NPS's Challenge Cost Share Grants.

Linda Cook, historian in the Alaska Support Office, discusses the use of money available under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) for the preservation of a Russian Orthodox Church in Unalaska. Linda also writes about the need to market Alaska's NHLs and the NHL program to the cruise ship industry, and about the benefits to the preservation of native Aleut heritage of the new Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, which was created in 1996.

Christine Whitacre, historian in the Rocky Mountain Support Office, describes the impressive preservation efforts of the small mining town of Silverton, Colorado. Silverton's volunteer historical society put together funding from many different sources, including ISTEA, the Historic Preservation Fund, and the NPS as well as private funding, to restore their town hall and create a museum. Mark Barnes, with the NPS Southeast Regional Office, describes its efforts to prepare nominations for many new NHLs across the South, including Puerto Rico. Catherine Colby, historian in the Southwest Support Office, describes working with the Wheelock Academy NHL, which served the Choctaw community between 1832 and 1955.

Archeological investigations in the Presidio of San Francisco NHL have resulted in the discovery of "The Presidio within the Presidio." An article by Leo Barker, historical archeologist with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, describes the methodology and reasoning used in this investigation.

Ann Huston, of the Pacific Great Basin Support Office, worked closely over many years with B. Noah Tilghman, Cultural Resource

Manager with the California State Park System, and the Bureau of Land Management to work out a way to preserve the historic mining town of Bodie, California. The story, which reads like the “Perils of Pauline,” involved federal, state, local and private owners, but shows that persistence and creativity pay off.

Finally, an article by Lou Ann Speulda, of the Region I Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, describes an excellent example of creative cooperation among federal agencies in the story of the transfer of World War II Facilities at Midway NHL out of U.S. Navy management to that of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which will preserve both cultural and natural resources.

The articles as a whole provide an overview of many facets of the preservation of National

Historic Landmarks. Hopefully readers will find new inspiration and ideas in this issue. Thanks to all who contributed and congratulations on all the good work that NPS and its partners—federal, state, local and private—are doing towards the preservation of NHLs and all of the nation’s historic heritage.

—Susan Escherich, *National Park Service*

The editor wishes to thank the authors of articles and letters in this issue, and Antoinette J. Lee, Acting Chief, Preservation Initiatives Branch, and Bryan C. Green, NCSHPO Historian, for their editorial assistance.

Carol D. Shull

Expanding Participation and Support for the Designation of NHLs

To date, only 2,210 National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) have been officially designated by the Secretary of the Interior for their exceptional significance in illustrating the history of the United States, but many more nationally important places are worthy of designation. Because National Park Service (NPS) funding and staff for the National Historic Landmarks Survey are so small, nominations are generally prepared by others as part of organized theme studies or as single nominations that can be initiated by anyone. The NPS is trying in a variety of ways to expand participation by State Historic Preservation Officers, federal agencies, American Indian tribes, professional organizations, and the public.

Recently, the NPS reorganized to more closely align the NHL Survey with the National Register of Historic Places. A new *National Register Bulletin* on how to complete NHL nominations is being prepared and circulated for comment prior to publication. This bulletin will provide the first detailed published guidance on how to document national significance and prepare NHL nominations. The bulletin adopts the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form as the

established format for National Historic Landmark theme studies. The Multiple Property Submission format with its sections on historic context, property types, and evaluation criteria, methodology and bibliography is familiar to and much used by nominating authorities and the rest of the preservation community. The bulletin also describes how to prepare NHL nominations and how to amend National Register documentation for landmark designation.

Several years ago, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) put forth “A Modest Proposal” concerning the NHL program. The proposal suggests that in preparing NHL theme studies, the NPS concentrate on the production of a national historic context for particular subjects, themes, or resource types; establish guidelines and criteria for determining national significance with long lasting usefulness; prepare only sample nominations as examples from the pool of known resources of national significance; and identify additional properties that would qualify. More nominations would then be prepared by others gradually over time. The proposal also urges that guidelines for the production of NHL documentation be revised to include all aspects of a property’s National